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Artificial control of protein activity

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STELLINGEN

Behorende bij het proefschrift

Artificial control of protein activity

Manuela Bersellini

1. With all due respect to traditions, stellingen should not be mandatory.
2. A good scientific presentation aims to convey fundamental research aspects and educate the audience, but does not list all the results a researcher has obtained since the beginning of his/her career.
3. A PhD supervisor monitors ones progress, gives advice and provides guidance. As such, he/she is your superior, not your parent, psychologist or social assistant.
4. Biocatalysis is defined as the use of natural catalysts (*i.e.* enzymes) to perform chemical reactions. Therefore, a sound understanding of (organic) chemistry is essential to perform and research biocatalytic transformations.
5. The possibility of metal ions binding to proteins during bacterial expression should not be overlooked (Chapters 3 and 5). Identifying the catalytically active metal ion bound *in vivo* to a protein can be far from trivial and requires a combination of different analytical techniques (Chapter 6).
6. Using different analytical techniques during your PhD presents a great opportunity. However, sometimes it takes more than knowing how to perform experiments and operate an instrument to obtain reliable results. Initiating collaborations with experts in their respective fields is, thus, more advisable than trying (and possibly failing) to learn everything by yourself.
7. The dispute whether it is easier for a chemist to learn biology or vice versa is nonsensical. The difficulty is not related only to how to perform experiments, but is about being able to troubleshoot when experiments do not go according to plan and this is challenging irrespective of the subject.